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**REQUEST  
FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000,  
provides for continued examination of an utility or plant  
application filed on or after June 8, 1995.  
See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number	09/138,920
Filing Date	August 24, 1998
Examiner Name	Davis, T.M.
First Named Inventor	Auten, Christopher L.
Group Art Unit	2681
Attorney Docket Number	36097/180305

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.  
**NOTE:** 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

## 1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

a. ☒ Previously submitted

- i. ☒ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on April 23, 2003  
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## b. Enclosed

- i. ☐ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 16-1435
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
- ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
- iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$ 375 is enclosed
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

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## SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print /Type)	Charles W. Calkins	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	31,814
Signature		Date	6/17/03

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as express mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner For Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

Name (Print /Type)	Toyce E. Southern	Date	6/17/03
Signature			

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231.



**EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE**


"Express Mail" mailing label number : EV 032 107 326 US  
Date of Deposit : June 17, 2003  
Type of Document(s) : Request For Continued Examination (RCE)  
Transmittal;  
Check in the amount of \$375.00; and  
Return Postcard  
Serial No. : 09/138,920  
Filing Date : August 24, 1998

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I hereby certify that the documents identified above are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and are addressed to the Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

 (signature)  
Toyce E. Southern